# SITES RESERVOIR

Setting the Record Straight on Greenhouse Gas Emissions

Water storage reservoirs, such as dams, can emit greenhouse gases (GHGs) under certain conditions. These emissions primarily come from the decomposition of organic matter that is submerged in low or no oxygen environments, generally in lower elevations in the reservoir. The emission levels of reservoirs depend on various factors such as reservoir size, climate, water management practices, and input of organic materials to the reservoir.

## SITES RESERVOIR SETS TARGET OF NET ZERO GHG EMISSIONS

Sites Reservoir has been designed to account for GHGs and has set a target for net zero emissions.

The Final Environmental Impact Report (Final EIR) uses an internationally recognized standard method called the *global warming potential* approach that is endorsed by the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change and is used extensively to analyze GHG for activities all over the world.

The environmental analysis for the Sites Reservoir Project (Project) finds that GHG emissions could be significant **without** mitigation. However, the Sites Project Authority (Authority) is committed to a "net zero" threshold for GHG emissions over the life of the project. This is a high bar for any project and means the Authority will take specific actions to avoid, reduce, and offset emissions resulting from the project construction and operations.

Below are a few examples of how the Project will achieve net zero emissions:

- Proactively assessing upcoming construction activity and early investment in GHG reduction efforts prior to the emissions occurring (prior to construction and operational activities)
- Increasing the proportion of renewable energy purchases for the Project's electricity needs to the highest amount that is feasible with 60% of the Project's power needs from renewable, carbon-free sources starting in 2030
- Removing vegetation and material from the bottom of the reservoir, to the extent possible, before we fill it with water

As part of achieving net zero, the Project will prioritize strategies to reduce emissions in the following order:

1. Onsite measures for construction or operations (such as using electrical equipment rather than gas or diesel-powered equipment)
2. Offsite measures
3. Carbon credits

The order of priority for the location of selected measures is:

1. Within the Project footprint
2. Within communities in the vicinity of the Project site
3. In the Sacramento Valley Air Basin
4. In the state of California
5. In the United States.

The Authority will seek opportunities to implement GHG reduction measures in minority and low-income communities in and near the Project site and provide updates on the effort and outcomes in the required annual reporting.

## COMMITMENT TO TRANSPARENCY

The Authority is also committed to monitoring, reporting, and enforcement requirements to achieve net zero. This includes full and open public disclosure on the Authority's website on annual emissions along with avoidance, minimization, and offsetting measures.